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New Appointments to SGA Executive Body

DAVID LIAKOS
NEWS EDITOR

In the face of the resignations of officers Dorian Ehrlich '14 and Justine Keller '13, the Student Government Association is in the unusual position of being forced to reshuffle a number of offices mid-semester.

Ehrlich, formerly Chief of Communications, resigned because of personal aversion to some duties of his office as well as disagreements with the direction of SGA activities this semester, while Keller, who served as Chair of Residential Affairs, left SGA for undisclosed personal reasons.

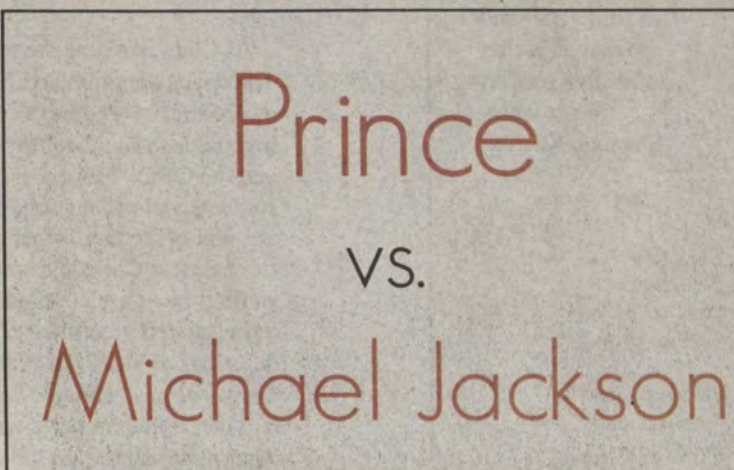
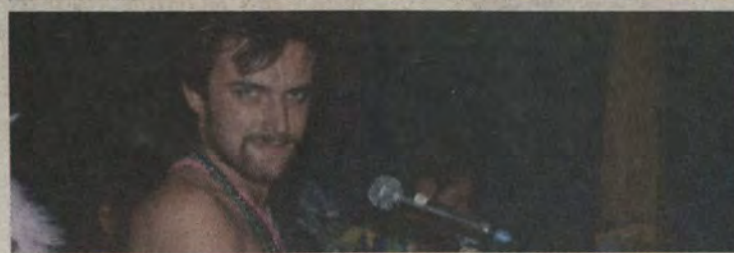
Edward Fisher '12, Vice President of SGA, said that the almost simultaneous resignations of Ehrlich and Keller was "a complete and unhappy

coincidence," dissuading any outside observer from thinking that there is any kind of mass exodus from SGA this semester. Instead, according to Fisher, there is "no relation between the two" resignations.

Ehrlich has been replaced at Communications by aAli Rossi '13, while Will Tucker '14 has replaced Keller at Residential Affairs.

While he expressed regret at the resignations of two key officers, Fisher noted that the Executive Board is "really happy to have Will and Ali." Fisher said that the changes at SGA this semester constitute "the first time, to my knowledge, we've had this much turnover."

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CC Dissent, at Crossroads, Discusses Student Loans

MEGAN REBACK
COLUMNIST

Editor's Note: This is the fifth installment in a series covering the Occupy Wall Street movement and its effects both on and off campus.

On Thursday, November 18, Connecticut College hosted a discussion by Psychology Professor Stuart Vyse called the "Failures and Pitfalls of the Occupy Wall Street Movement," which focused mainly on the student loan crisis. The event, which took place in the Charles Chu Room, was well attended by approximately thirty students, several professors and many representatives of CC Dissent, a new group on campus that supports the Occupy Wall Street movement and advocates for its causes on campus.

Professor Vyse was a deliberate choice for hosting the talk, as he recently authored the book *Going Broke: Why Americans Can't Hold On To Their Money* and teaches a course on behavioral economics. He referred to the text throughout the lecture, discussing the ways in which people relate to money and debt.

According to Professor Vyse, our current society lives with the myth of the American Dream, whereby making money is entirely dependent on hard work and personal responsibility. "Money is central to who people are," he said. "There are a lot of attributions made about people in respect to money and there's also personal philosophies in life regarding how we talk about it."

However, he went on, the Occupy Wall Street movement has pointed out that making money "is not just about hard work. If it were, then there would be a lot of people up on this hill [at Connecticut College] who aren't here now."

Another concern that the Occupy Wall Street movement has addressed is student loan debt, something that many students on the Connecticut College campus can relate to. With a comprehensive fee of \$54,970, one of the top five most expensive colleges in the country (and therefore among the world's most expensive institutions), many students must take out loans in order to attend. Professor Vyse pointed out that what it takes to "get up onto this hill," to attend a private, elite, liberal arts college, does require a lot of money, and many students ultimately graduate with thousands of dollars of debt.

One of the main demands of the movement, which has been supported by several economists, the *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, as well as Professor Vyse himself, is student debt forgiveness. "Student loan debt should be potentially expugnable in bankruptcy proceedings. You will be indentured to bankruptcy and that is the problem. This is worth being angry about," said Professor Vyse.

When corporations go bankrupt, which essentially means that their assets are no longer sufficient to cover their debt obligations, their remaining assets are liquidated in order to repay loans and bondholders. The case typically goes to bankruptcy court. However, as Professor Vyse points out, there is no equivalent for students drowning in overwhelming debt. They become indentured servants to that debt for years.

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Voter Apathy

GREG VANCE
CONTRIBUTOR

During the last few years at Conn, the Student Government Association has faced the issue of low voter participation in almost every election. It seems that fewer and fewer students on campus are participating in the elections. Last year, so few students voted that the voting quorum had to be reduced drastically from fifty percent to twenty percent just to validate these elections; if only one out of every five students actually votes, how can the election results be said to represent the opinions of the student body as a whole? The answer is: They can't.

This is becoming a major problem and it is transforming SGA elections into an undemocratic process. According to former SGA Chief of Communications Dorian Ehrlich '14, in all student elections held since 2005, the

total number of votes cast was less than forty percent of the number of votes that could have been cast. What is it that has been causing so many students to stop voting in the last few years?

Blackstone senator Helaine Goudreau '14 put one hypothesis forward. "I think a large part of it comes from the way voting is held," says Goudreau, who is currently leading a task force with the goal of increasing voter turnout in future elections.

In addition to the appointments of Rossi and Tucker, SGA will conduct two in-house senatorial elections, in Johnson and Katharine Blunt. (The Blunt election will be to replace Rossi, who had to resign as senator in order to take on the duties of Chief of Communications.) Fisher noted that there might also soon be a third senatorial election thanks to a room change by another Assembly member.

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Interdisciplinary Collaboration At Its Best

New group Fluxus takes inspiration from international art movement

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Fluxus, meaning "flow" in Latin, is dead terminology and gibberish to most. But in actuality, "fluxus" stands for a local, in-the-now art movement here at Conn, and an international and historical movement that will inspire artists for the ages.

The art-intermedia group on campus, founded by Savitri Arvey '12 and Catherine Monahan '12, is not only an effort to bring students together to experiment with cross-disciplinary art expression outside of the classroom, but also a continuation of the international movement of the same name that was most influential in the sixties. Art History professor Karen Gonza-

lez Rice spoke to Arvey and Monahan to further explain the history of the movement, in order to give context and inspiration for Conn's group. The movement, particularly influenced by the works of John Cage, began experimenting with cross-disciplinary collaboration leading to what became known as the "flux concert," a staged performance art that utilized a diverse set of media and participants. Arvey and Monahan decided to take this movement as inspiration to launch artists (whether they consider themselves to be artists or not) on campus into action.

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorials



At Conn, we love the term "student leaders." The deans are quick to affix it to a plaque and award it to whomever is best at both learning and leading; the Office of College Relations and the Office of Admission like to capture these students and package them into the materials that are sent off to the former and future classes of Connecticut College as models of success. These smiling faces are coupled with the equally-loved term "shared governance," which our website describes as allowing "Connecticut College students [to] have a major voice in how the College is run... Students serve with faculty, staff and administrators on virtually all College standing committees."

This holds true. The spaces for student direction, where students are at the helm of all action, including the Student Government Association, Student Advisory Board, and Student Activities Council, are vast and alliterative. The spaces for student input, where students are only a part of a larger conversation that includes faculty, staff, the administration and trustees, are open and welcoming. One of these spaces is the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee, or PPBC, which decides where the money goes; there are two student voices, as equally weighed as any other, that help decide the allocation of over one hundred million dollars.

These positions are one of the many ways in which students are given the opportunity for both expression and representation—but the key word here is "given." Despite their abundance, these channels governed by students do not have possibilities defined by students. The rules are passed down without much flexibility for change: the chair of the Student Advisory Board sends out a

weekly email and plans a semi-annual party for their peers; the president of a club holds regular meetings that work towards a goal, whether it's raising awareness of health education or educating students in the martial arts. Still, the supposed limits on the roles remain a barrier for innovative student leadership.

There needs to be more room to move. As members of student clubs and organizations, either at an introductory or an executive level, we're part of a giant experiment in which there is no desired outcome other than exploration. We have the opportunity, and more importantly, the time, to test our interests and ideas, to shy away from the prescribed "this-is-what-a-club-president-does" and to rewrite the rules that take into account what students want now. Instead of having the same run-of-the-mill activities, think outside of the box: a sports team could invite recurring spectators to join them—not just to watch, but to run/lift/swim—at an extra practice; WCNI could host informational sessions to show how the DJing works. It's not about just transparency; it's about gauging and maintaining interest. If we were to put focused, creative and enthusiastic effort and time into our clubs, our dedication would certainly be more detectable.

Here's to the Voice-themed Cro dance (Press Fest? Read'n'Rave? Delta Lambda Layout?) that we've always dreamed of.

Ipek Bakir & Jazmine Hughes
Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief



Have a great break.

World News

ATLAS has compiled headlines of world news not normally seen on the front page of the New York Times.

THE AMERICAS



After an animal rights activist group released unsettling video of animal cruelty at McDonalds and Target's egg suppliers' barns. The three facilities are recorded as keeping hens crammed in small cages, workers burning their beaks. There's also a clip showing a worker shoving chicken inside a co-workers pocket, apparently as a joke. McDonalds and Target both announced that they were uninformed about the cruel treatment that hen received in these farms.

OCEANIA



Australia is the first country to pass legislation for the enforcement of plain packing of cigarettes. Tobacco companies have already started to fight this new law. The application of the legislation will begin on December of 2012 and all cigarette packs will be sold in olive green packs. The vivid health warning messages will continue to be on the packs, with the hope of making cigarettes ever more undesirable to purchase.

AFRICA



French immigration laws are becoming stricter over time, thus causing many foreign college graduates to leave the country. The North African community is most affected, leaving to some criticism of the fact that Franche is depriving its working class from productive, highly trained labor.

EUROPE



The United Kingdom, for the second year in a row, has been named the cocaine capital of Europe. Statistics have estimated that approximately 4.8% of fifteen to twenty-four-year-olds have taken the drug over the past year.

ANTARTICA



The mystery of the existence of the Ice Mountains in Antarctica has been solved. When Russians began exploring Antarctica, the Ice Mountains in Antarctica puzzled them: they expected the landscape of Antarctica to be similar to Canada, where the landscape is flat. The Gamburtsevs are a range of mountains to size of the European Alps is completely buried underneath the Antarctic ice. It is estimated that these mountains can as tall as 3500 meters or more.

ASIA



Researchers in Shenzhen, China have cloned a pig that survived for thirty-six days trapped under the rubble of the 2008 earthquake. Zhu Jianqiang, whose name means "strong-willed pig," survived on rainwater and charcoal. He has become a symbol of national resilience.

Shakeup at SGA Amid Resignations New Officers Appointed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ehrlich's criticisms upon resigning last week of SGA's labyrinthine bureaucratic qualities and lack of transparency have been echoed by grumblings across the campus community. Candace Taylor '13, for example, forcefully criticized SGA's lack of visibility in an opinion piece in last week's edition of *The College Voice*, and one student who has served on the SGA Public Relations Committee, speaking on the condition of anonymity, noted that there were numerous efforts this semester to increase the visibility of President Diane Essis '12.

According to the PR Committee member, Essis, uncomfortable with most of the ideas to increase her public image, stymied the attempts before they could be implemented.

Indeed, it has fallen to Fisher, the Vice President, to lead SGA's public response to the resignations and numerous criticisms leveled at SGA this semester, sitting down with *The Voice* for numerous interviews and sending out public emails about the resignations of Ehrlich and Keller, while Essis has remained mostly silent.

Fisher said that he believes that the criticisms of SGA this semester are not new and are typical of conversations had every semester at Conn. Concerns about transparency are "perennial. We're always working on issues about how best to do [public relations]."

As for charges of bureaucracy and lack of initiative, Fisher

replied, "I don't see it in that light at all. I would say these are mostly good faith discussions we have at SGA."

He also noted that Ehrlich's criticisms are of an "interpersonal" quality, and that with the amount of time that SGA officers spend together, there are "bound to be tensions." Ehrlich's characterization of SGA was "one-sided," Fisher argued. SGA is genuinely looking to foster "a more general dialogue" with the rest of the campus community, according to Fisher.

Rossi, the new Chief of Communications, echoed Fisher's sentiments. She is looking to "increase the transparency of SGA to students" and to try and show students how SGA can be "a really good tool for them to use."

She will be using SGA's Twitter account to give students more knowledge of what goes on at meetings, and will continue writing a weekly piece for the news section of *The College Voice*, started by Ehrlich, about SGA's operations. "I'll work with *The Voice* to get what SGA does out to the student body," Rossi said.

Rossi will also take on the duty of writing *On the Can*, one of the loudest mouthpieces SGA uses to spread news across campus. "I don't want to give too much away," Rossi said about her plans for *On the Can*, but she did reveal that she will be profiling members of the SGA Executive Board and Assembly in each installment in order to increase their visibility. She will seek to give a better picture of "SGA business in general" with *On the Can*, she said.

Tucker, the new Chair of Residential Affairs, also spoke positively about SGA's future and ability to effect change. He hopes to "reinvigorate life in the houses and the house environment as a whole. I really believe that the residential experience can contribute greatly to a person's happiness here so it's important to foster an environment where everybody feels comfortable and involved."

Future initiatives Tucker discussed include a possible spring semester version of Camelympics as well as greater collaboration between SGA and the Office of Residential Education and Living.

He also is unfazed by the prospect of ascending to his SGA position near the midyear point, having taken up a seat on the Assembly as a senator from Plant last semester. Tucker is "quite excited by the opportunity" to serve as Chair of Residential Affairs, having run unsuccessfully for the position last semester.

Tucker noted "low voter turnout" in recent elections and mentioned that increasing overall student participation in and knowledge of student government as larger initiatives that SGA has to tackle in the future.

The Executive Board is optimistic about the prospect of tackling such projects with the team they currently have. Speaking about the reshuffling at SGA this semester, Fisher said, "We get to reevaluate and shake up our own approach. And that's the silver lining in this whole unfortunate situation." •

CC Dissent, At Crossroads, Discusses Student Loans



IMAGE FROM CONNCOLLEGE

Professor Stuart Vyse of Connecticut College's Psychology Department

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In order to avoid this outcome, Professor Vyse advises students to avoid debt and view money differently. What our capitalist economy wants for you to do, he said, is "to earn a lot of money and spend it all," and what is even more preferable from that standpoint is "to spend more than you earn and go into debt because that makes money for the lending class." He even points out that in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, President George W. Bush advocated for consumerism as "our American duty."

"Think very seriously about earning a lot of money but not spending a lot," Vyse warned. "There is great power in the money that you earn as individuals and I would urge you to make money but not spend it. There is great power in being good with money. Avoid getting into debt as much as possible."

In the spirit of the Occupy movement, Professor Vyse cited the anti-consumerist organization Adbusters, one of the chief supporters of Occupy Wall Street, which has appropriated "Black Friday," one of the biggest shopping days in the American year, and changed it to "National Buy Nothing Day."

Professor Vyse is no stranger to social movements. For years, he was involved in left-wing social movements, marching against the war in Vietnam at the Pentagon in the 1970s, and more recently protesting against the Iraq War. With this historical view of recent leftist social movements, he cited one of the pitfalls of the Occupy movement, arguing that Occupy Wall Street is somewhat disorganized.

"It would be beneficial [if the movement were more organized], but what I'm suggesting is that the most important thing is to keep the positive energy moving and to not do anything crazy that will cause negative publicity. For those of us of my generation who have been involved in movements, this is the most exciting thing that has happened in a long time," he said.

Despite its disorganization, the movement has changed the dialogue. Now, he said, "Even Republicans have to answer questions like, 'What are you doing about economic inequality?'"

In addition to the ostensible disorganization of the movement, CC Dissent organizer Eliza Bryant '12 pointed to other shortcomings of the movement, "which all have some piece of validity," including lacking any particular agenda, and having no real organizational leadership.

Another organizer for CC Dissent, Ann Daly '12, added that "many people involved in Occupy Wall Street have very good ideas but perhaps they're not the best at describing them. I find myself very disenchanted by the level of education about the issues that the people claim to be protesting. This has led to some very harebrained ideas and talking points."

For instance, Daly cites the fact that few in the movement are discussing the connection between the recession in this country and the European debt crisis. She added, "Most protesters probably wouldn't be able to understand quite what's going on."

However many of the organizers believe that the media is responsible for creating the stereotypes of Occupiers as undereducated about the movement, as simply hippies seeking out a cause or a handout. Organizers responded

to comments by a student who attended the lecture who echoed such sentiments, arguing that it seems as if "a lot of protesters who have been interviewed haven't articulately explained their views or points and do not necessarily align with the movement. It has given this façade of hippies who don't know what they are talking about."

"We don't choose whose interviews we get to see. This is the media's choice," responded organizer Gautham Sinha '13.

In an attempt to help control these media images, organizer Elizabeth Larkin '15 said that the network CNBC actually contacted CC Dissent, in hopes that it could document an Occupy Wall Street-esque live-in at the Connecticut College campus. Ultimately, however, CC Dissent turned down the offer in order to not make a "spectacle" that could be easily manipulated by the media.

"We haven't decided to do a campus live-in because we don't have enough momentum or support from the student body. We don't have any direct demands on our administration and it doesn't make sense right now," Larkin explained.

While it seems as though the discussion at Thursday's lecture was somewhat insular, relegated mainly to the organizers of CC Dissent, Larkin pointed out the importance of self-critique.

"By being critical of the movement ourselves rather than allowing just the press and the opposition to be critical of us, we take some of that power back, not in order to dismiss, dismantle and vilify it, but to make it stronger."

And how, precisely, does CC Dissent, already a fairly visible group on campus, plan to grow? The group appears to be something of an anomaly, with many Connecticut College students questioning its very name, its actions and its goals. What exactly is the group "dissenting" from?

Bryant said, "Dissent works because it just speaks to certain things that are going on in our country that we don't agree with, that we'd like to see changed. This is a group that addresses issues that they would like to amend, and dissent is essential to democracy."

Echoing Bryant, organizer Mihir Sharma '12 said that dissent means "not being happy with the way things are and acting upon it."

Larkin, like many students on campus, finds that the group isn't "dissenting" as much as its name perhaps suggests. "We need to take more direct and local action and incorporate a broader base. So far we have gotten a really unthoughtful and unquestioned kind of rejection from SGA which was frustrating for us."

On the group's name, Larkin continued, "I believe it is dissent to the passivity of the status quo. I think if our actions on campus so far have not caused a rewriting to the C-book or better healthcare for the cafeteria workers, at least perhaps they have done something to draw attention to issues, and perhaps reject the passivity toward some issues."

Regardless of the impact that CC Dissent has or has not had on the Connecticut College community, Professor Vyse urged students to "please keep hope alive" with the movement, and continue fighting. This statement is particularly compelling in the wake of increased regulation at Zuccotti Park this past week, when over 175 protesters were arrested for attempting to shut down the New York Stock Exchange. •

SUNDAYS WITH ALUMNI

NETWORK AND GET CAREER ADVICE FROM
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ALUMNI

GETTING SOCIAL: CAREERS IN MEDIA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY Sunday, December 4 Cro's Nest, 4 p.m.

Curious what it's really like to work at Google? Want to hear about the behind-the-scenes happenings at VH1? Could launching your own web site become a career?

Three alumni will discuss how their Connecticut College education prepared them for the fast-paced world of entertainment and social media.

- **Richard Kappeler '04**, program planning manager at VH1, New York (film studies major)
- **Lauren Matison '06**, co-founder & editor of *offManhattan.com* and writer/blogger for *Crust.org*, *Cosmopolitan Magazine* and *The Huffington Post* (English major)
- **Kathryn Whitney '07**, YouTube specialist for online media sales at Google, Inc., Boston (religious studies major)

This event is sponsored by the Office of Advancement.
Refreshments will be available.

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations alumni@conncoll.edu.



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Oxfamished: Why and How Harris’ Closing Serves the Greater Good

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

One night every academic year, Harris Dining Hall closes in hopes that students will donate their dinners to the international confederation Oxfam, which then collects the money that would otherwise be spent on food. Students are then encouraged to eat elsewhere that night, though the Jane Addams (JA) dining hall remains open.

According to its website, Oxfam is comprised of fifteen organizations working together in ninety-eight countries and with partners and allies around the world to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. SGA’s Chair of Diversity and Equity Juan Pablo Pacheco ’14 revealed more about how Conn gets involved.

Oxfam is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that has a say in the United Nations and is considered legitimate. Like many other NGOs, Oxfam has been accused of some corruption, but Pacheco argued that it is “one of the more organized and trusted NGOs out there, which is why Connecticut College chooses to support it year after year.” Oxfam works with many other colleges and institutions as well, including Trinity College and Wesleyan University.

Juniors and seniors might recall having to sign sheets indicating their permission to donate their meals for the night to Oxfam, but this year SGA decided to do away with the signatures altogether, choosing instead to “default” credit any student meal plan accounts that go un-swiped for the evening.

As Pacheco explained, “It used to be that students would have to sign a waiver that allowed dining services to take the money away. We realized what a pain it was, having to count every signature, and then go to [the Jane Addams dining hall] and double check that people who had signed their permission didn’t actually go to eat. It was very difficult to get an accurate number indicating how many students actually donated their meals. Also a lot of people who don’t usually go to Harris for dinner would never even get to sign the waiver.”

And so, by switching to what Pacheco referred to as an “opt-out” strategy as opposed to the old “opt-in” strategy, greater revenue would be accrued.

These small changes have raised some confusion, Pacheco admitted. For instance, students have been wondering why SGA even bothered tabling for Oxfam this year if the money was going to be taken anyway and signatures weren’t required. Pacheco explained that because this was the first year the changes went into effect, SGA wished to inform students that the Oxfam night was indeed still happening, as well as to inform students why Harris was going to be closed on Thursday evening.

Though there have been some bumps along the way, Pacheco confirmed that Ingrid Bushwack, Director of Dining

Services, was in complete support of the recent changes, and was confident that they would lead to higher proceeds in the years to come.

Students still wonder exactly how not swiping their student I.D. will help the hungry, and how the money donated to Oxfam is calculated. There has been some controversy surrounding the proposed “cost of a Harris dinner,” currently valued at \$9. In actuality, only half of this number is being donated to Oxfam for each meal, because the valued price of a Harris dinner is different from the total cost of the ingredients alone in the meal. That

is to say, the staff and cooks preparing those ingredients are getting compensation for their work when you’re using your swipe. But through Oxfam night, only the total cost of the ingredients not being used is actually donated.

As for calculating how much money Connecticut College will donate to Oxfam, Pacheco explained that dining services will take data based on the average number of students who have gone to dinner in Harris on Thursday evenings over the past two months to get an average, and from that average, they will subtract the number of students who swiped in at the JA dining hall that Thursday. Based on that information, they will reach a fairly accurate total of students and donate 50% of that money to Oxfam International, while the remaining 50% will go towards feeding the local New London area homeless.

Since many students choose to go out to restaurants in the New London area on Oxfam night, Pacheco and Fabiola Miakassissa ’13 contacted restaurants in the area asking if they would agree to donate to the cause. Two Wives, Mr. G’s and Northern India all agreed to give a portion of their proceeds to the project. Pacheco stated that hopefully, by asking restaurants in the area a little earlier next year, they will be able to convince an even larger num-

ber of local restaurants to participate.

After Miakassissa finished reaching out to the community for support, she still found time to host a dinner in Lazarus House where students could have a fabulous dinner of “Chicken Prince,” “Fabiolicious vegetables,” “Majda potatoes,” “Sibelina couscous” with Moroccan spices, white rice and fried plantains for ten dollars. All funds collected at the dinner went towards a microfinance project that will be implemented this winter by Connecticut College students.

When asked to comment on the possible hypocrisy of students going out to eat for sometimes expensive dinners while donating an ultimately small portion of funding to Oxfam, Pacheco mentioned the blood drives Conn runs throughout the year, which still don’t allow international or homosexual students to donate. Nevertheless, Conn continues to participate because despite the restrictions, it does allow a portion of the community to get involved and contribute to a just cause.

“A lot of the aid NGOs get is very hypocritical. Rich and privileged people feel good about themselves while not really making a huge impact,” Pacheco explained. “At the same time, it’s better than nothing. Hopefully we’ll at least make people think about the idea of ‘giving up something of mine for the common good, something greater than me,’ which will hopefully extend beyond giving up one’s dinner for Oxfam once a year.” •



Pizza, Porn and Healthy Debate

EMILY REMPELL
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

Last Thursday, over one hundred students gathered along the perimeter of Cro’s Nest with a seemingly shocked Professor Feldman nestled modestly in the chaos of seats and furniture. “Pizza and Pornography” was organized by Conn’s sexual assault awareness group One in Four and was intended to shed light on and question the correlation between pornography and violence against women.

The discussion commenced with Feldman addressing the issue of how to define pornography. After all, Feldman noted, “if we’re not referring to the same things, our conversation could get a little messy.” The students chimed in with their ideas of how to define pornography. Some used examples from experience, others tiptoed around the idea of admitting to watching porn and others flatly claimed to be hypothesizing. The students all agreed that pornography included “the commodification of sex,” and the majority of students raised their hands when asked if they viewed pornography as something aimed towards straight men. Feldman passed around a handout with some definitions and statistics, which included a definition of pornography by feminist scholars Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin. Their definition specifically included the phrase “graphic sexually explicit subordination of women.” For the purpose of this talk, Feldman focused on the aspect of definition that included the subordination of women.

This sparked a continuous rapid fire of responses from the students. Does straight pornography always have a connotation of violence against women? What does it mean to be dehumanized? Is it really possible for a person to volunteer to be dehumanized? Does this imply that there is no such thing as ethical pornography? What would the global implications



HANNAH PUSHTIN/PHOTO EDITOR

of a lack of ethical pornography be?

In the United States, 77% of men and 28% of women are thought to consume pornography. This consumption is presumably in private. “If pornography is consumed so prevalently, why does public America seem somewhat prudish whereas private America seems, well, quite different?” asked Feldman. “Is part of its prurient pleasure in its secrecy?”

The gender divide between students at the talk seemed to be representative of Conn’s sixty/forty female-to-male split, so there were fairly equal opportunities for both sides to voice their opinions as to if and how porn is related to violence against women.

However, when the subject did manage to surface, the conversation veered away from violence. The students at the talk broadly agreed that women are often portrayed negatively in porn, but some students expressed doubts over the claim that pornography had a direct causal effect on violence against women.

The discussion came to a close with Professor Feldman presenting the term “illocutionary.” He defined the word in colloquial terms. “Language affects the status of the world, and words and images don’t just make us feel a certain way, they construct the world and have power.” He gave an example: Your girlfriend says, “I’m dumping you.” This phrase is not just a string of words. This language has just changed the status of your life, your surroundings and your world.

The conversation tapered off on this note, implying the possibility of pornography’s correlation to violence against women. Though the discussion ended without a definitive conclusion, a number of issues had been raised, which was the goal of One in Four. •

Breaking Dawn and Dating Abuse

AMBER VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, November 14, just a few days before the premier of *Twilight: Breaking Dawn*, Shannon Keating ’14, a member of SafetyNet, a domestic violence awareness group, and Darcie Folsom, Coordinator of Sexual Violence Education, hosted an event in the Women’s Center to discuss dating abuse and stalking in the *Twilight* series.

Keating explained that she “wanted to use this series as an example of domestic abuse and dating violence because the relationship in the series is something to which readers are supposed to aspire above all else, even though the relationship hits basically every mark on an abuse checklist.”

The event, “Breaking Down *Breaking Dawn*,” began with a sequence of film clips from the first three films in the series. These clips highlighted examples of dating abuse and stalking in the movies. One of the movie scenes shows Jacob kissing the main character, Bella, against her will, and she hurts herself trying to get him to stop. When Bella arrives home injured, her father’s response is to congratulate Jacob.

These clips elicited laughter from an audience comprised of both fans and critics of the series because the unhealthy aspects of the relationships appeared blatantly obvious outside of the context of the plot of the series.

The examples sparked an animated discussion on the dating violence, domestic abuse and stalking depicted in the films, leading to a general debate about unhealthy behaviors in the relationships represented by the *Twilight* series.

One of the main topics discussed was Bella’s lack of friends. One student noted that the only friends Bella has at the beginning of the series are those whom she eventually pushes away. Throughout the rest of the movies (as well as the books) Bella has only two friends—Jacob, who is in love with her, and Alice, Bella’s boyfriend’s sister.

The group also discussed how Bella’s main love interest, Edward, does not allow Bella to visit her only other friend, Jacob. He goes as far as to disconnect the wires of her car so that she is unable to visit Jacob.

Keating mentioned that each of Bella’s love interests threatens suicide to manipulate her. Edward always says

to Bella that he cannot live without her and when he believes Bella has died, he attempts to kill himself. On the other hand, when Jacob discovers that Bella is getting married, he threatens to go angrily to a battle in order to get himself killed.

What the story does not explicitly discuss, while Keating’s discussion did, is that Jacob’s threat is really a form of manipulation – Bella allows herself to be controlled by Jacob, going so far as to beg him to kiss her.

Keating argued that the series’ focus on the importance of having a boyfriend is demonstrated by the remarkably bleak chapters devoted to the months following Edward’s breakup with Bella. In fact, what follows these chapters is Bella’s borderline suicidal drive to engage in life-threatening behaviors in order to induce hallucinations of her ex-boyfriend. Another student brought up the fact that Bella only really awakens again when she begins to have feelings for another boy.

Cara Einbinder ’14 thought the event was lacking in male opinions. Einbinder explained that she wished that “more guys had been there. Male opinions would have been interesting to contrast with the female opinions,” though she still found the discussion to be both interesting and informative.

Another girl in attendance mentioned that the problem in the depiction of Edward and Bella’s relationship lies in the fact that many young girls read these books and idealize this relationship—they all want an Edward, but that is the perfect example of the kind of relationship that they should avoid.

The goal of the event was to encourage people to become conscious consumers. “I’m hoping to inspire people to look at the media they are consuming from critical perspectives,” Keating said. “Being a conscious consumer is key. There is so much racism and sexism inherent across all strands of media, and if we don’t stop to acknowledge it we’re going to let it control us.”

Keating further explained, “we can be fans of these problematic things, definitely, but we just need to recognize where the problems are. Hopefully one day we don’t have to be stuck with loving fiction that glorifies obsession, sexism and violence.” •



HANNAH PUSHTIN/PHOTO EDITOR

OPINIONS

Bystander
Paterno

Why Penn State
should not mourn
the loss of their head
coach

MOLLIE DOHERTY
STAFF WRITER

While watching the opening of the first post-Paterno game, audience swaying gloomily, sporting their “Joe Knows Football” T-shirts, I couldn’t help but deplore the fans’ actions. Here were fans in mourning, lamenting the too-soon departure of their hero, as if some malignant power had destroyed him. As we know, however, Paterno predicted his own demise the day he incorrectly dealt with a very grave claim.

As a member of the Think S.A.F.E. Project group, SafetyNet, I help to educate the campus on sexual assault and dating violence issues. Darcie Folsom, the program’s leader, shares with the campus tried and true intervention methods to protect the safety of a college campus or any other community. In Green Dot training, students learn the ways in which we can help others through bystander intervention.

Whether the situation is breaking up and argument between an inebriated couple in your dorm,

or lending an ear to a classmate about an unwanted sexual experience, the training equips students to be acutely aware of situations in which one can protect and prevent.

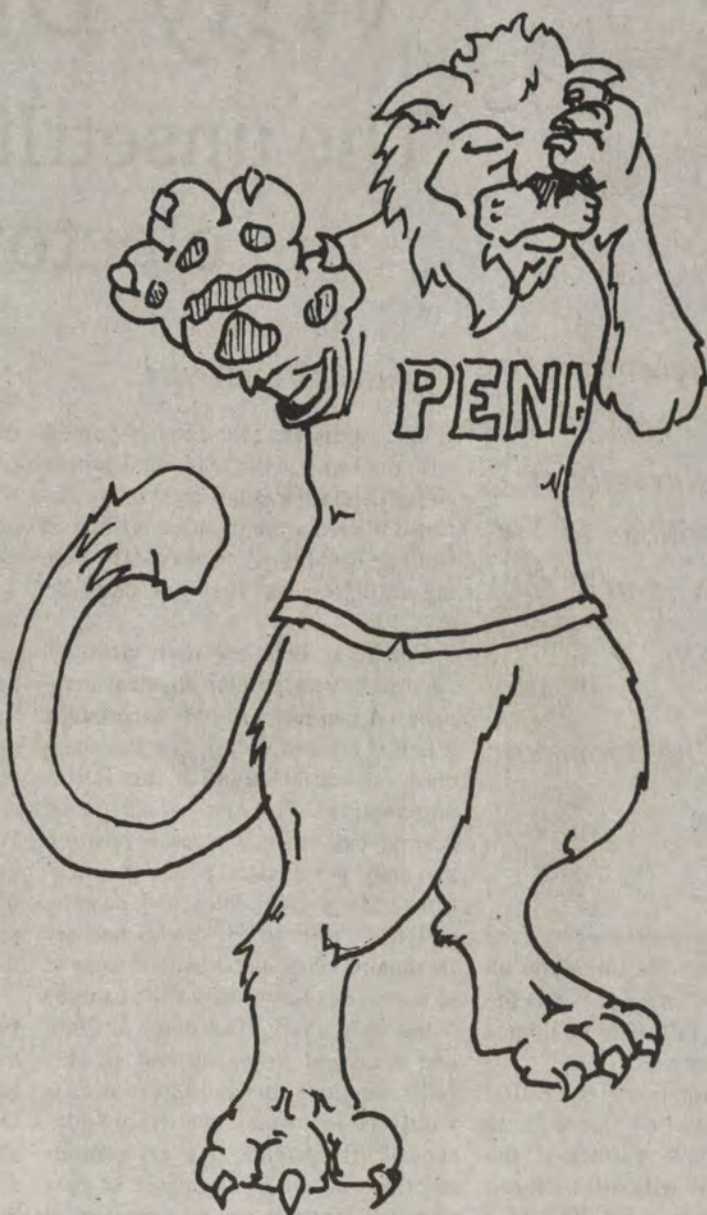
Joe Paterno was absolutely a bystander to at least one of Jerry Sandusky’s deplorable victimizations. Although it is possible he never laid eyes on Sandusky roughhousing in a shower, it is sure that he incorrectly dealt with the information that was given to him by someone who did. Paterno must have thought, selfishly, that the best way to protect himself was to bury the knowledge deep in his head, try to forget what he knew, even as more and more of Sandusky’s subjects pranced onto his field, ostensibly living out their childhood dreams. By not reporting, Paterno, just as actively as Sandusky ruined those victims’ childhoods, he paved the way for the violence to continue.

Every day, we are complicit in this “shoving under the rug”. We

keep trivial things from people that we love so as not to upset them, we act in certain ways so as to keep the status quo. If this situation teaches us anything, though, it should inform people of the need to speak, the need to indict others for their wrongs, no matter how powerful they are and how much it would spoil the natural order of things. As a member of SafetyNet I am an advocate for potential victims, constantly reminding myself to keep an eye out for our community here, and encouraging others to act similarly. Surely, if someone had worked up the courage to say something, particularly back in 2002 when so many were privy to Sandusky’s crime, the abuse could have ended.

The Penn State student body

has been particularly vocal in their support of the former coach: rioting in the streets in protest of the removal of an icon. I can understand their sadness upon losing someone who instills students with so much pride, who encourages them to bleed blue, to know that by donning their navy sweatshirts they are supporting something worth cheering for. What I cannot understand is their evident dismissal of what Paterno did wrong, the way in which he actively chose to allow his colleague to abuse his position of power. As the crowds sway, pouring their sentiment over the field they cherish, I can only hope that one of them is swaying not for Paterno, but for a one of Sandusky’s victims, a child like them, who shared their love of football. •



SAM MAUCK / STAFF

Top Ten Ways
For Conn To
Improve Itself

MELANIE THIBEAULT
ARTS EDITOR

It’s no secret that Conn has been trying to spruce itself up this past year. With the construction of the new science building, the revamping of Harris and the opening of Jazzman’s Café, Conn has gone all out—and spent a ton of money—on its new facelift. But since we’re improving our look, I think it’s about time we improve some other things around here.

1. Coffee Grounds Delivery Service. Have you ever been sitting in your room, listening to Neon Indian, and got a craving for a chai latte but were too lazy to leave Larrabee to go to Coffee Grounds? Admit it, we’ve all been there. With a Coffee Grounds Delivery Service, you wouldn’t have to bother slipping into your skinny jeans and leather shoes. An irritated Camel in an army jacket would just show up at your door with your order and a pack of cigs. The only downside to this: you forfeit the whole super-chill, artsy atmosphere of CG with its mellow tunes and interesting clientele.

2. An ice-yachting team. One might think with its abundance of Sperry Top-Siders, Vineyard Vines and J. Crew attire, that Conn might as well start a yacht club. Why not take it one step further with an ice-yachting team? Yes, this is a real sport, according to Wikipedia. In ice-yachting, one races iceboats. How badass is that? Answer: Pretty badass. I’ve already inquired about reserving the pond in the Arbo for practices in the winter months, and asked the sailing team to start attaching long blades to the bottoms of their boats.

3. A guard in the Tower. If we’re going to have an area of campus called the Tower, we need a guard, and not just a campus security officer who hangs around Freeman. We need a hired man, dressed in a full body armor suit and skilled in the art of jousting. In other words, we need a knight. While we’re at it, we should build a moat around Freeman and JA, throw a dragon in Cummings and place a Sphinx at the end of the bridge to the AC that will ask Conn students and New London gym-goers to answer a riddle before going to work out. If you fail, you have to slay the dragon.

4. A class on underwater basket weaving. Everyone always jokes about this “class,” but who actually offers it? Reed College does, apparently. I’ve always been curious as to how to simultaneously make fine wares while SCUBA diving, but rather than transfer to Reed, I say Conn should hire a trained professional and make this silly concept the most rigorous major offered here.

5. Wi-Fi that works (everywhere, all the time). Okay, all joking aside, this one is serious. The Wi-Fi on this campus sucks. It sucks in Cro. It sucks in the Plex. It sucks in Blaustein. I’m not going to pretend I understand how invisible waves connect my computer to the Internet, but come on, Conn, can’t we get some decent Wi-Fi up in this place? There aren’t that many of us on campus, and we’re usually not all trying to access the Internet at once, unless we’re registering for classes (and that’s a whole other pain in the ass).

6. A giant plastic bubble. Everyone always refers to Conn as “the bubble,” since we are our own little civilization on a hill, separated from the rest of New London. So why haven’t we just taken the school and encased it in a giant plastic bubble yet? We joke about it all the time, but now it’s time to make it real, before the upcoming winter months. Just think—no rain, no snow, no plentiful supply of oxygen and no contact with the outside world. Two of these changes seem worthwhile.

7. Paint over all graffiti and wall art. Conn is a liberal arts school, which means we don’t promote creativity or innovation. We should squash every form of student expression seen on campus—since we’ve already painted over the tunnel, why not knock down Cummings and replace it with a Wal-Mart? In fact, every student seen with a can of spray paint should be sent to Honor Council. Let’s make sure the walls of this campus look bland from North to South, above and below ground.

8. Plex dogs. If Larrabee can have adorable cats roaming around their green, the Plex should be allowed to have dogs. Specifically, three large pitbulls planted in the Lambdin-Morrison lobby, to greet students as they enter the building. For exercise, they can chase the Wright-Park dumpster cats and the skunks that, I swear, have looks of vengeance in their eyes this year. We can feed them off of Harris scraps, and cuddle with them in the common rooms.

9. Move Putto to the Arbo. In no way do I want to disrespect the sculpture that resides outside of Blaustein, but that thing is creepy, and I hate walking by it on my way to class every day. Being an English major, Blaustein is like a second home to me, and Putto is like an annoying guest that will never leave—an annoying guest with no face and crazy limbs. If we stick it among the trees in the Arboretum and create a sign with a fake plant name, no one will notice the difference.

10. A herd of Camel statues. For anyone who hasn’t heard of CowParade, let me quickly explain. A bunch of artists paint designs on cow statues that reflect the towns in which the cows are placed. Each year, one or multiple cities participate in the event, and the cows are auctioned off at the end. Instead of cows, we should have student and professional artists decorate camel statues and place them around campus, in places like Harris, Palmer, Cro, the AC, Blaustein, the Arbo, etc. I’m almost completely serious about this idea. If anyone wants to paint a camel, let me know, so I can drop out of my classes and start making the statues. •

A Little Bit Goes A Long Way

A commentary on the importance
of Oxfam night

EMMALINE DEIHL
STAFF WRITER

Oxfam night seems like a pretty uncontroversial and likable idea. Last Thursday, Harris closed for dinner and donated to Oxfam America money that would have been used to feed students. Oxfam is an acclaimed international organization that works towards ending poverty and relieving suffering around the world.

However, I have actually heard complaints about Oxfam night. Some students feel they are not sufficiently informed ahead of time, despite notices in the *Daily CONNtact* and outside of Harris; for others it is simply inconvenient. Students are busy, and with Harris closed they are forced to rearrange their schedules in order to accommodate other dinner plans. I have also heard the misunderstanding that students have to pay extra to participate, or they do not like the fact that they have no choice in the matter. Or perhaps some students simply miss the bustle and nightly ritual of eating in Harris.

While I completely understand the importance of fast and convenient meals for busy college students (I live in the Plex and absolutely love the proximity to Harris), I am one hundred percent in favor of Oxfam night and believe that it is a great opportunity to help others as well as change up

our own routine.

Despite what some people may think, the college does not leave us stranded without food for a night; Jane Addams dining hall remained open, and it offered essentially the same food as Harris with a cozier atmosphere. For students with more time or a greater desire to do something different, Oxfam night can be a great incentive to get off campus. Last year, my friends and I were thrilled that Harris was closed; it was a great excuse to go out to dinner. Of course, many college students also have tight budgets, and I’m no exception. I am trying to get through the entire holiday season this year on about \$80—a rather challenging goal—so I did not go out to eat last Thursday.

Luckily, there were several alternatives to leaving campus or going to JA that were available to students. Some dorms held events with food for their residents, and other organizations offered meals. Yalla Bina hosted a dinner for only \$7, giving students a great opportunity to learn while eating delicious food from another culture, and the 1 in 4 organization teamed up with Professor Feldman of the philosophy department and organized “Pizza and Pornography,” a discussion of the effects of pornography on women. As the name implies, the event included free pizza. By sacrificing the conven-

nience of Harris, Oxfam can offer a good opportunity for students to break out of their routines.

For me, however, the real importance of Oxfam night lies in its actual purpose. I doubt many students would take the initiative to donate money to the organization unprompted, so this is a great way to make a donation without actually having to do anything. Regardless of your feelings toward humanitarian aid or philanthropy, I feel that it is invaluable to take the time to appreciate how lucky we really are. It is easy to forget that millions of people all over the world die from starvation and disease related to malnutrition living in this idyllic college setting.

We may argue that this is not directly our fault and we are not obligated to really help, but we are more connected than we think. For example, the majority of us own laptops and cell phones, which contain the mineral coltan, most of which is found in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and has contributed to the ongoing conflict there. This conflict, which has spanned more than ten years, has left over five million people dead, many from starvation and disease, and proliferated the use of rape as a weapon of war. The enormous demand for certain minerals in developed countries contributes to the ongoing violence. The next time you feel like

complaining about food in Harris, you might remember that in the Congo thousands of women are starving, because there is a high chance they will be gang raped or shot if they walk to the fields to tend their crops. We do not have to deal with the trauma of living in refugee camps and picking through bags of sand in the hope that there are a few grains of rice left from the day before.

These are extreme examples, but they are true. I completely understand the complaints about Harris food, and in the context of our own isolated experience these might be valid grievances. After all, we are paying a ridiculous amount of money to go here, and good food shouldn’t be too much to ask for. Many students come from families with traditions of excellent cooking and are disappointed by college food. In my opinion, the food is usually pretty good, but I am not particularly picky. The real point is that whatever our individual tastes may be, we are consistently provided with plenty of food, as well as the means to keep our bodies healthy. We should be taking the time to appreciate how much we do have, instead of focusing on what we do not have. Millions of people would love to be in our positions. Oxfam night should cause us all to reflect on how fortunate we really are. •

Sex Answers with Fred McNulty



Dear Fred,

I think a lot of us college students are interested in (as it pertains to our own sex lives at Conn) how we can keep our sex lives exciting and fun when everything is seemingly scheduled since we have limitations to “reserved time” or “private time” a.k.a. “sexy time?”

*Sincerely yours,
Excitement Craving Roommate*

FREDERICK MCNULTY
SEX COLUMNIST

Dear Excitement Craving Roommate,

What an excellent question! Many students at Connecticut College and other schools feel restricted when they are forced to room with other people. And with good reason: when one sexiles roommates, he or she does not wish to cause discomfort. While this niceness should be commended, it might not afford someone the time that he or she would regularly prefer to spend with a sexual partner. One should not have to choose between being a good roommate and having a fulfilling sex life. No, you will not be able to have the freedom of those who live in singles, but there are ways to find a reasonable compromise.

The first idea is to ask for more time. Thirty more minutes? An extra hour? Starting ten minutes earlier and ending ten minutes later? Pick a time frame that you feel comfortable asking for and that roommates will agree with. Do not be afraid to take a chance! Negotiation is a part of living with other people. One would be surprised by how accommodating many people will be if they receive nothing more than a polite, respectful request.

However, let us presume either that extra time is unattainable or that time is not the issue; what should you do? This next suggestion may seem simple— and almost patronizing— but is often overlooked: talk to your sexual partner. Sex is awkward for some people to discuss with their partners—but this does not mean that communication should not take place.

Tough conversations are a part of a healthy sex life. For example, take discussing the worst case scenario of an unwanted pregnancy, or asking your partner if he or she has been tested for STIs. Both conversations have the potential to be awkward, but are essential for responsible engagement in sexual activities. Similarly, I cannot stress the importance of talking to your partner about performance issues. This conversation can help you and your partner identify both the source and solution to the awkward-

ness that you perceive. Have you each been explicit with what turns you on and what turns you off? Honesty is the best policy, and a failure to be honest can lead to problems.

However, regardless of these first two options—requesting more time and talking to your partner—at the end of the day, you will still be faced with roommate restrictions. The only real way to keep your sex life “exciting and fun,” as you put it, is to understand what makes sex pleasurable for you. That is something I cannot answer for you; what is exciting for one person may be dull to another. There are couples that find immense pleasure out of bland, “vanilla” sex, sticking to convention and rejecting innovation. On the other end of the spectrum, there are people who enjoy bestiality, blood-related fetishes and BDSM; the idea is to find what makes you and your partner feel the best. (Although, I would not suggest bestiality as it is illegal in Connecticut.)

If you are fresh out of ideas, then I would suggest purchasing a book on the topic. Mainstream books can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or Spencer’s Gifts, while specialty books can be bought online or in sex shops. The Internet can be a great resource, but many websites base their content on user-submissions, most of which are untested and potentially risky. Use your best judgment and always stay safe.

Overall, you need to take control of your sex life. If advocating for more time, talking to your partner and experimenting do not fix your problem, then you may consider switching into a single. If you are a first-year student or if you are unable to make such a switch, then you are going to have to make do until the end of the year. Focus on the positive aspects of your sex life and try to build upon on these strengths. Yes, being restricted sucks, but you cannot let these detractors bring you down— it is not fair to let these adversely affect your sex life. •



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Dr. Schaperow specializes in helping college students to overcome anxiety, depression, and relationship struggles, while planning for a successful future. Located two miles from campus

Why Don't We Vote?

The unsettling truth about Conn's electoral participation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“[T]he campus is sent one large email with the link to vote, and most people either delete the email right away because it’s from the dreaded ‘Office of College Relations,’ or put off the voting until later and then just don’t do it.”

Goudreau believes that elections need to have a greater physical presence on campus in order to produce a better turnout, citing the freshman class council elections of this fall as an example. The class of 2015 had several candidates for each position and they got excited about the election. Many candidates had posters, and Mike Murgo ’15 (who became freshman class president) managed to scrawl his name across the campus using only chalk. The class of 2015 had excellent voter turnout in this fall’s elections; it would have been a valid election even under the old quorum of fifty percent. If every campus election had the same degree of passion and enthusiasm as this one, it certainly could make a difference in voter turnout.

Another likely explanation for the low voting percentages is that students have stopped caring about SGA. College campuses are notorious for student apathy, and Conn is no exception. But why are students losing interest in SGA and, more importantly, what can be done about it?

“To me, as a student of politics, the most plausible conclusion from the lack of voter turnout seems to be that what SGA does (or more importantly, can do) is not important enough, because if it was, people would vote, and there would be multiple candi-

dates for each position, which is not the case,” says Mihir Sharma ’12, Chief of Academic Affairs. I don’t want to say that SGA isn’t important, but if that perception exists, it could certainly pose a problem.

For example, the Chiquita banana resolution was a key issue on SGA’s agenda. I understand that it is a pertinent issue, and I’ve seen proof that a number of students on campus are passionate about it. Having said that, take the issue and put it in the context of our small college community. While there are some students that are quite concerned about the bananas, the great majority of people on campus do not have strong opinions on the matter.

Now that the resolution has been officially passed, Harris might not have bananas as often. Conn has rid its own hands of the “bloody bananas” and Dole and Chiquita suffer an unnoticeable loss in sales. Besides appeasing a few strongly opinionated students, the resolution has made little difference in campus life or in the world. I’m not saying that it’s unimportant to address these issues; “banana resolutions” like this are okay now and then, but maybe SGA needs to tackle issues that are closer to home if it wants to grab the attention of the student body as a whole.

SGA does a lot of important backstage work, coordinating many different events, but the campus community rarely hears about them— all they hear about are SGA’s big projects, most of which hold marginal interest for them. Perhaps this is not so much SGA’s fault, but the fault of the student body. The campus community

seems to be unfamiliar with SGA, and this makes people think SGA is distant and hard to talk to.

In reality, it’s not that way at all. “Senators would love to hear from constituents and propose resolutions,” said Sharma, “There are many students who have taken the initiative to get things done through SGA or in association therewith, without ever having served as an assembly member or having the learned the Robert’s rules or order.” SGA has become disconnected from the students, and that may be the reason that students have started to lose interest. “I think it’s just about engagement,” said Ehrlich. “[Students] vaguely hear about the issues and they aren’t well informed enough to make an opinion.”

The task force led by Goudreau is a step in the right direction. They have ideas for future elections, including common room promotional “voting nights” with house senators and pizza, campaign tables in Harris for candidates to advertise their platforms and qualifications and open forum discussion nights.

It shouldn’t be up to SGA alone. Students also have a responsibility to get involved in the elections. People need to talk to their house senators and try going to house council to maintain an informed stance about student government. Most importantly, take a few minutes of your time and cast a vote next spring. Maybe we can restore the old quorum and turn SGA into a democratic organization that is much more closely involved with the student body. •

More Than an Occupation

How the Occupy movement can save our generation from apathy

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Motivation to properly and effectively engage in our communities is hard to come by for many of us at Conn. In our defense, we are perhaps forced or bred into the apathy our elders so often bestow upon our generation.

As adolescents, we are told to sit in rows, memorize facts, stretch ourselves too thin in order to appeal to colleges and avoid conflict or controversy because of our obsession with political correctness—all while the Internet exposes us to a world so raw, real and fast-paced, yet so beyond our reach and comprehension. Yet we are confined to the American Middle Class set design and screenplay. Everyone is expected not only to follow the same path, but to do so at the same pace.

Upon arrival at Conn, I was surprised to be awoken from such disillusionment. The social fabric screamed “I-don’t-give-a-shit-and-neither-should-you” via the disrespectful hook-up culture, lack of constituency involvement in student government and affairs and low attendance at brilliant lectures and student-run events. Fewer students than I expected seemed invested in their peers and professors, despite both being so rich in personality and personal history.

College helps us ignore the disgusting and ugly country and countrymen we must somehow join and be proud of come graduation day. But as the end of my first fall semester is in sight, I know that apathy does not heal, but only numbs. To break free from apathy is to break free from a masturbatory, fantastical and blinding addiction.

I sound like a broken record for those who know me, but the Occupy movement is just what I need to quit, cold turkey. Until this community can agree that our values regarding social justice issues relating but not restricted to financial equity and accountability

are worth reevaluating, I will chatter away about some Jon Stewart segment and post OWS videos to Facebook and write obnoxious, redundant articles for the Voice, and I’ll do it repeatedly. I hope that passion is not equated with terms like, “hipster,” “hippie,” or “pretentious.” And if it does, we should definitely question why.

My hopes for this movement are entirely selfish. I want to feel the pride United States citizens were meant to back in the good ole days. I want to feel the urge to wave my flag and light fireworks and return to the suburbs with some warmth. I want to truly feel how lucky I am, instead of just reasserting that I know that I am lucky. I want to be able to make a statement: I love, I identify with my American past, present and future. After all, as I travel through life, meeting new people and peoples, my American identity is what will come to define me, and I need to learn how to own that.

I don’t think it’s so bad that this movement will be a lengthy one. I don’t think it needs a specific goal or end point as of right now (although I do think more organization and perhaps some official leaders who can discuss demands more in-detail would be incredibly beneficial): there is an excess of social, cultural, economic and political injustices that all seem to flow into one another; this diversity of issues requires a diverse group of people to tackle those issues, and truly diverse discussion takes quite a long time to facilitate. This is okay! If we want to do this right, the future, the history books, even the “greater good” can wait for us. These issues are at least thirty years in the making and there are people of all shapes and sizes with lifetimes behind them who have valuable voices. Regardless, things are not going to get better anytime soon anyway, so why rush?

The all-powerful, all-nuclear, Oba-

maland, United States of America is more of a corporate empire focused on military, cultural and consumerist imperialism than a nation serving its own constituency. But I need to localize this movement to my own personal history, to my suburban backdrop, for it to make sense to me, and I don’t think I’m alone in that need. The values that I struggled to balance living in Newton, Massachusetts stand for values all of us need to redefine, or else our government—honest politicians and officials, dishonest corporation whores, and those in between—will remain stagnant in the constant filibuster that has replaced real conversation and interaction.

Embracing this movement helps me embrace even the grittiest and darkest moments of my youth, the youth I am still blindly staggering through. The local and global activity I partake in exposes me to unavoidable differences and diversity that color my world by forcing me to broaden my mind to new ideas and points of view. Without OWS and OWS-inspired communities or conversations, I would not have such a vivid life, so I am in solidarity with the movement. This solidarity provides me with a group of people with which I can profoundly identify, regardless of age, ethnicity, political beliefs, class, education or any other difference that society usually deems too separate to be equal. As I identify with them, I can slowly identify myself.

If a leftist movement—that is, a movement based on inclusion, community participation and horizontality—can help me break the boredom and non-sustainability of collegiate apathy, then I know it can jolt anyone into action. And to all who are presently determined to maintain their current standard-of-thinking, I encourage you to relax and give it a go because it’s humbling, it’s beautiful, it’s human, it’s “American” and it’s about time. •

ARTS /// ENTERTAINMENT

NOVEMBER 21, 2011

Editors: Devin Cohen and Melanie Thibeault
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Freshman Yulia Khaitov
balances her
passion for art with her
other academic
interests



One of Khaitov's many paintings

HEATHER HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

"Faces. I love faces," gushed freshman art student Yulia Khaitov. "In my digital art class in high school, we all got paired up with a classmate and our assignment was to age them on Photoshop — and not gracefully. Double chins, gray hair, wrinkles... it was pretty weird. I had to make my friend look eighty years old."

Khaitov, whose passion is portraiture, has an extensive history in studio art. She attended the Bergen County Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, a magnet school in her native New Jersey that required her to submit a studio art portfolio in eighth grade for the admission process. According to Khaitov, "Everyone in the visual art school was amazing." Most of her classmates are now enrolled at highly selective art schools like RISD and Cooper Union, but she chose Connecticut College because of the balance she craved between studio art and her other academic interests. Plus — she speaks openly and unapologetically about her application process — RISD wasn't an option. "I initially wanted to apply, but my parents wouldn't let me. They didn't think I could be an artist and maintain the lifestyle I'm accustomed to, and I agree with them."

Despite her evident talent and focus in the art studio, Khaitov is modest, often speaking more excitedly about her classmates' successes than her own. When she speaks about Conn's art department and her own classes, though, her passion shines through. Khaitov is clearly energized by the challenges she's found in her art classes.

"One of the hardest assignments was blind contour drawing, which is drawing something in front of you without looking at your paper at all, and rendering the object with one continuous line," Khaitov said about her Drawing 205 class with Professor Brad Guarino. For another assignment, "[Professor Guarino] cut up squares and circles, put them on the floor and said, 'Draw them.' It was by far the most challenging assignment for me this semester."

Khaitov isn't set on studio art as her intended major, which makes her magnet-school past and ongoing passion even more intriguing. "I'm not sure," she said. "I'm thinking about double majoring with psychology, but I might end up just minoring in art. But I'm definitely going to minor, at least."

Khaitov's combination of a finely tuned eye for art and an aptitude in math and science helps further explain her decision to come to Conn over a school for visual arts. "I started drawing really early, but I never thought I'd seriously pursue art," she said, as if stumbling upon her own talent for the first time. Khaitov is often surprised by praise, and at times shies away from it altogether — a touchstone of a dedicated artist.

One thing Khaitov laments about art at Conn as opposed to her hometown of Oakland, New Jersey, is that it's farther from a major metropolitan area. Says Khaitov, "I was born in the Ukraine, and when I was two, I moved to Israel. In the fourth grade, I moved to New York City, and after that, New Jersey. For as long as I've lived in the United States, I've had this incredible access to the art world [in NYC]." She has held internships at art galleries like Exit Art in Hell's Kitchen, something that's helped her remain in touch with other artists. However, Conn has provided her with resources she didn't have in New Jersey, like the figure drawing sessions offered by Fluxus.

"Access to models [in New Jersey] was expensive and inconvenient, and at Conn it's right here. It's been really great... now I'm drawing from life, and that's really different. It requires a whole new skill set than drawing from a photograph."

Khaitov is honest about what she recognizes to be her own shortcomings. "I always stress realism and naturalism, and I try to represent things as they appear in nature, which is something that the art teachers here are encouraging me to break out of and explore." When she opens up and shows her work, she's excited about where she's been as well as her future at Conn. It's not about her own successes, though; she brushes past praise to reexamine her work. She points out deep wrinkles, creases and suppressed smiles in her painted faces. These are the subjects of her constant fascination. •

Interdisciplinary Collaboration At Its Best

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Catherine's an art major and I'm not," Arvey said, "but we both felt there wasn't a space out of the classroom that supported the collaboration between different arts."

So far, Fluxus has attempted to join the forces of fine arts, music, theatre, dance, creative writing and film, in an all-inclusive way. If students are unable to be traditionally trained in the classroom in any of these art forms but wish to exercise their creative rights, Fluxus will give them a space to do so.

The most concrete action the group has put into effect is the figure drawing classes that occur once a week. There was enough student interest to take the idea to the administration for permission to hold such a comprehensive and rigorous art platform. Chair of the Art Department and Fluxus' faculty advisor, Professor Denise Pelletier, wrote up contracts for each role in the figure drawing experience. After three drafts went through the administration, the project was finally put into action.

The project is still fermenting, however. "We're in the process of working out contracts and hiring models, and we're looking for people who are interested in modeling," Monahan said.

The essential aspect of the Fluxus project is community collaboration and interaction. Above all, this is what all participants in Fluxus value most.

"Through collaboration you can come up with good ideas and forms of expression that aren't possible if you stay in your field... We have so many talented students outside the different departments, so to have them all come together creates really positive results," Arvey said.

Professor Rice agrees. "That collaboration can illuminate possibilities in your own medium that maybe weren't obvious before. It infuses the work with new possibilities."

Arvey and Monahan's roles are less to create art themselves, and more to give a platform to any students with artistic vision through funding and organizational strategies.

"If [the students] could find a way to make their projects involve other people... then we can totally find a way to give you money. Some sort of conversation has to be happening," Monahan said.

The group began last semester, opening to a very positive and encouraging student audience with many ideas to share. Most of the conversations revolved around brainstorming and looking towards the future possibilities of Fluxus. Even though the group has organized very solid events, like the evening figure drawing classes, the momentum from last semester has definitely dwindled. Arvey and Monahan serve as facilitators, but students need to use personal passion to keep the group active. This slower pace, however, discourages neither Arvey nor Monahan.

"Even though we haven't had that many events, people get so excited about the idea of [Fluxus]... that is, in itself, pretty meaningful," said Monahan.

Although community action is the purpose of Fluxus, it does take individual vision to put

thoughts into action. "[The implication of community-based art] is up to each individual artist. What do you want to communicate or accomplish? How do you want your work to



HANNAH PUSHTIN/PHOTO EDITOR

participate in community? Is it decoration, is it entertainment, is it making people think about a specific event, or their habitat or their habits? How do my concerns relate to global or communal concerns?" Rice said.

The movement from the sixties was, and our on-campus Fluxus strives to be, all-inclusive. This progressive nature, along with the emphasis on community action, implies that Fluxus art and artists are in some way participating in a broader activism, perhaps with political undertones.

Rice assures that this bridge between art and activism is nothing new. "It really is in historical tradition to argue what the radical political possibilities for this are," Rice said. "This is one of the major splits in Fluxus: how to be political. Do we shut down the transportation system by riding in the subway, or do we make art that makes people think differently about their place in the world?"

Rice, though, warns that not all avant-garde work is radically progressive just because it is visually so. "In many ways it is our assumption that good avant-garde should be radically

progressive, but that is sort of the art-historical or established view, whereas I think it's more complicated than that," she said.

Despite the successes of all Fluxus-organized events on campus (figure drawing, journey dances, the Chiquita Banana cause led by Juan Pablo Pacheco '14 and the calligraphy exhibition in Coffee Grounds), it will take student initiative to fully embrace the possibilities Fluxus provides.

In the case of the Chiquita Banana project, such successful campus permeation can be attributed to the dedication and passion of Pacheco. Arvey, Monahan and Pelletier are masters of the behind-the-scenes — their role is primarily to foster and launch artists' passions and projects. "[Pacheco] really cared; he made it happen in a week. Sav and I were facilitators, but we don't really have time to do that power week," Monahan said.

As of right now, the founders only wish that more students utilized the great opportunities Fluxus offers. "We really want to hear student ideas, even if they shoot us an email," Arvey said. "SGA was very generous. Come take advantage of it." •

Coldplay-ed Out

Latest album *Mylo Xyloto* is more about image than quality



IMAGE FROM WEB

KYLE DAVID SMITH
STAFF WRITER

While sitting in my room listening to the new Coldplay album, *Mylo Xyloto*, I was terrified that some mysterious music police would bust down my door at any moment and strip me of the music appraising credentials I like to imagine I've earned in my years of in-depth music analysis (or as some might prefer to call it, my years of sitting alone in my room). I couldn't help but feel a sense of castigation coming my way for even listening to Coldplay, despite the fact that *Mylo Xyloto* is the first Coldplay album I've really given an in-depth listen to since I was twelve. In the world of music snobbery, it's difficult to think of many artists more off-limits than Coldplay, and I can't really say that I know anyone who was excited to hear the band's latest effort.

I could start off criticizing the lyrics, where realistically, I could pick apart nearly every song. Some of the more standout lyrics — "You use your heart as a weapon / And it hurts like heaven," "Every tear is a waterfall" and "Through chaos as it swirls / It's us against the world" — have been forcing

me into random bouts of confused anger. Then there's the production value, which for a record where millions were easily spent in the studio alone, is surprisingly poor on some of the busier tracks. At times I felt more lost in a wall of sound than I should have. Coldplay also seems to be jumping on the mainstream electronic music wave just in time to ride the coattails of other artists that have carved out this territory in the past few years.

I wonder, though, how productive it would really be to delve further into these issues. Even though I take issue with many aspects of the album, the music really isn't that bad considering what Coldplay wants to accomplish. Pondering the band's past successes, it seems that there are two very apparent goals at work with this record. One is to create stadium-ready alternative rock, the kind that 50,000 people can dance along with and scream the words to; in this respect, they have succeeded mightily.

The other goal, bluntly put, is to sell as many records as possible. The album sold 447,000 copies in the United States in the first week alone, and debuted at number one in thirty different countries according to Coldplay's official Twitter. It's apparent that they're well on their way to achieving this goal, and that someone, somewhere really likes Coldplay.

In an interview with Stephen Colbert on October 20, Chris Martin (lead vocalist, pianist and rhythm guitarist) was asked whether Coldplay's music has been influenced by the group Radiohead, critically-acclaimed

kings of the alternative rock circuit. To this, Martin responded simply, "We're not as good musically, but much more attractive." While *The Colbert Report* is hardly the most serious stage for hard-hitting interviews, embodied in this statement is what I believe to be the real issue I take with Coldplay. For any band to compromise their talent for the sake of appearances is incomprehensible. Furthermore, for a band to peddle attempts at accessibility as legitimate artistic strivings is unacceptable.

For this I take much more offense with Coldplay's marketing and promotion of *Mylo Xyloto* than I do with the actual music. Their decision to keep *Mylo Xyloto* off of streaming services such as Spotify, Rhapsody and Rdio — a decision that even Coldplay's label, EMI, was upset with — was rationalized by the band as an attempt to get people to enjoy the album as "one cohesive work," despite the fact that individual songs are available for purchase on various online music retailers. Allowing people to purchase individual songs but not stream them points to Coldplay's greed more than their concerns for artistic credibility.

There is also the band's latest image, specially cultivated for this album alone. Everything from the album art, to the promotional material, to the band's clothing reeks of a post-apocalyptic anarchy clashing with the Indian Festival of Colors. There would be nothing inherently wrong with this image if it didn't seem so apparent that the colorfully muted military garb — donned with randomly placed

rainbow colored patches with no clear meaning — was not carefully chosen by the band themselves, but by corporate focus groups. Even the name of the album itself is meaningless, though disguised as a careful attempt at creating artistic value.

There are a few suggestions I could make to the band if they want to legitimately validate themselves artistically. Following in the steps of Radiohead, Coldplay could benefit immensely from an album release modeled loosely around the famous release of Radiohead's *In Rainbows*, which gave listeners the option to pay whatever price they desired for a digital copy of the album, a move that would be perceived as a massive turn away from the traditional record company establishment.

Instead of selling out stadiums all over the world, Coldplay should try their hand at a low key tour of hole-in-the-wall music halls, where they could get back in touch with their biggest fans at eye level. Lastly, and most desired on my part, is for band leader Chris Martin to shed his good-boy image of being the quiet, respectable singer married to Gwyneth Paltrow.

I would enjoy nothing more than Martin falling apart at the seams, performing visibly hampered at the Grammy's, spitting on legions of loyal fans all over the world and generally becoming a bonafide rock Neanderthal. Sadly, it's hard to imagine this coming to fruition in the foreseeable future, and conversely, it's hard to imagine Coldplay becoming a truly respected group any time

Men's Hockey Brings Depth

Opens season 1-1, Murray tallys three points in win over Trinity

IGGY STERLING
STAFF WRITER

Last year's season for the Camel men's ice hockey program did not turn out to be what they had hoped for. The Camels finished the 2010-2011 campaign with a record of 7-14-3 (6-12-1) in conference. Despite their record, the Camels still showed flashes of talent, beating the nationally-ranked and eventual NESCAC champion Bowdoin 2-1 last January. Not making the NESCAC playoffs was a big disappointment, though, and this year's squad is ready to prove themselves.

One of the Camels' best assets this season will be the team's depth. This year's squad features seven of last year's top ten scorers. At the top of that list is Sean Curran, one of this year's senior co-captains, who led the team last season with a total of 17 goals and 10 assists, for a total of 27 points. Besides Curran, the Camels are returning a number of offensive threats. Seniors J.J. McGregor and Julien Boutet both finished in the top five for scoring on the team, while senior Mike O'Donnell was also in the top ten. Outside of the talented senior class, this year's sophomores have plenty of talent as well. Steve Ser-video and Mike Sinsigalli led the freshmen in scoring last year, with nine and eight points, respectively.

"We lost a couple of talented players last year," said Head Coach Jim Ward, "and we are returning looking to fill in the gap. That's where our senior leadership has come in. They are all great guys and great role models."

Indeed, the senior class' talent is not just offensive. On the blue line, the Camels are lead by senior co-captain Lucas Chavira Schramm, as well as senior Chris Fogg. Coach Ward specifically mentioned the depth of his D-

core as an improvement from last year. Dawson Luke '13 hopes to repeat his success on the blue line last year, as he led all defensemen by eight points. The Camel roster this year features seven freshmen on defense as well.

"In addition to our freshmen, we are

in one game last year, but did not let up a goal during his time in net. Petchonka played in five games with a respectable 0.908 save percentage. "Having three returning goalies gives us some good experience in net" said Petchonka.

"Margolin is a great goaltender, and it demonstrates the depth we have as a team this year from the net up to the forwards." Goaltending will again be key for the Camels this year, and the outlook is good.

The big question mark for the Camels however is scoring. Last year, it was an issue, but the team is optimistic for the upcoming season. "We were disappointed with the way things turned out last season," said senior co-captain and scoring leader Sean Curran. "This year we have a good group of freshman, and our hard work in the off-season has definitely paid off," he added. "We are way ahead of where we were last year." The bottom line is that the Camels knew at the end of last season that they

had to improve. After an intensive summer and pre-season work outprogram, it looks like they are in good shape to do just that.

Despite a tough 6-1 loss on Friday to Wesleyan, the Camels bounced back Saturday, traveling to Trinity College and beating them in their own barn 5-4. Dawson Luke scored a goal and junior Sean Murray added three points of his own, scoring a goal and tallying two assists. Andrew Margolin collected the win in net, racking up an impressive 35 saves. The Camel's will open their season at home this Saturday against UMASS-Dartmouth.



Sean Murray '13, scored a goal and added two assists to propel the Camel's to a 5-4 win against in-state NESCAC rival Trinity College.

PHOTO FROM WEB

Men's and Women's Basketball Improving Level of Play

CANDACE TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

With the end of the NBA lockdown nowhere in sight, college basketball ratings have seen quite a boost and will surely increase as time passes. With the winter sports season well on its way at Connecticut College, the CC basketball programs are expecting "higher ratings," as well in the form of support from the Connecticut College community and extended fan base.

The women's team begins the year with a new vigor and zeal that began brewing last season but is now in full effect. The team had a tumultuous season last year. They lost close games and valuable players mid-season, but they didn't lose their passion and perseverance. They rallied to a NESCAC win, the first for the women's program in quite a while, and they showed us a spark of what to expect this season.

The women came out full throttle to begin this season pulling out a win in a scrimmage against of Salve Regina. The Camels had a rocky start in the intense battle, but guard Kacie Quick '13 entered the game and put the Camels on the scoreboard with a 3-point shot after coming off the bench. Senior guard Jenn Shinall matched the efforts of her fiery teammate to seal the win with another clutch 3-point shot. The women proved in this scrimmage that they mean business. They should expect to bring crowds of Camel fans to their feet by playing the way we've seen them play thus far.

The men's team has a similar fire present within their ranks. Though the team is rather young overall, they have pulled in the reins and switched gears since last season. The team has been laboring through arduous workouts, intense conditioning and even three-hour-long practices. They have been truly showing that age doesn't limit skill.

The two seniors of the team, co-captains Brian Mahoney and Bobby Bellotti, are incredibly skilled both offensively and defensively and have consistently proved that they belong in leadership positions. The pair re-

ceives a great amount of admiration and respect from their teammates and will surely lead the team through a season of victories.

During practices, the men encourage each other and celebrate one another's accomplishments. They constantly push each other to give as much effort as they can on the court and in the classroom. As the season goes on, chemistry continues to build and the team grows together, we fans can expect a heightened caliber of play from the team and a season of success.

Both teams opened up the season this weekend. The men's team battled Babson College and Fisher College. They suffered a tough 61-51 loss to Babson. The Camels held the lead early in the second half, however, a late push by the Beavers proved too much for Conn to handle. Matt Vadas '14 lead the team in scoring with 16 points and added six rebounds. Junior Rob Harrigan finished with 12 points and four boards. Against Fisher, the men had a similar result, battling hard but falling short in the end, 70-61. Je-thro Anilus '14 scored 13 points for the Camels and added two assists.

The Camel women competed against Albany College of Pharmacy and Emerson College. The team had an impressive 78-43 victory over Albany College of Pharmacy. Jenn Shinall '12 lead the team with a game high 22 points and added five steals. Carlee Smith '15 had an impressive 10 assists to go along with five points and two steals. The lady Camels finished the weekend off with a 66-51 win against Emerson. Tara Gabelman '14 led the Camels in scoring with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Shinall had another strong performance, putting up 13 points and eight boards.

While the men did not fare as well as the women, both teams have been putting in hard work and building team chemistry to get in the win column this winter season. •

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Basketball (0-2):
Conn 51 - 61 Babson College
Conn 61 - 70 Fisher College

Men's Ice Hockey (1-1):
Conn 1 - 6 Wesleyan
Conn 5 - 4 Trinity

Women's Basketball (2-0):
Conn 78 - 43 ACPHS
Conn 66 - 51 Emerson College

Women's Ice Hockey (1-1):
Conn 1 - 3 Trinity
Conn 6 - 2 Trinity

Men's Swim/Dive (2-0):
Conn 181 - Middlebury 107
Conn 150 - 130 Tufts

Women's Swim/Dive (0-2):
Conn 125 - 172 Middlebury
Conn 147 - 150 Tufts

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Women's Ice Hockey
@ Hamilton
Friday, 12/2
7:00 PM

Women's Basketball
@ WPI
Tuesday 11/22 5:30 PM

Men's Ice Hockey
vs UMASS-Dartmouth
Dayton Arena
Saturday, 11/26
4:00 PM

Men's Basketball
vs. ECSU
Luce Field House
Monday, 11/28
7:00 PM

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE COLLEGE VOICE



This week's power rankings reflect the first weekend of NESCAC winter sport action. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on men's hockey, women's hockey, men's basketball, women's basketball, and the combined ranking of men's and women's swimming and diving.

Amherst currently sits comfortably atop the standings with four #1 rankings. Midd, Williams and Bowdoin hold onto their positions at two, three, and four respectively. Conn College makes a big jump to #5 with a huge men's swimming victory over Tufts, as well as a victory against Trinity in men's ice hockey.

SCHOOL	MEN'S HOCKEY	WOMEN'S HOCKEY	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	M/W SWIMMING AND DIVING	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
AMHERST	1	1	1	1	2	1.2	1 ↔
MIDDLEBURY	2	2	2	6	5	3.4	2 ↔
WILLIAMS	3	6	4	4	1	3.6	3 ↔
BOWDOIN	4	7	3	2	6	4.4	4 ↔
CONN COLL	6	3	11	7	3	6	9 ↑
BATES	—	—	7	5	7	6.33	7 ↑
TUFTS	5	—	6	11	4	6.5	6 ↓
HAMILTON	8	—	—	—	8	8	5 ↓
COLBY	10	8	9	3	10	8	9 ↑
TRINITY	11	4	8	10	9	8.4	8 ↓
WESLEYAN	7	5	10	9	11	8.4	11 ↑

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, Dan Moorin and Jesse Moskowitz ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school. Note that Hamilton does not participate in women's hockey, men's basketball or women's basketball. Bates does not participate in men's hockey or women's hockey. Tufts does not participate in women's hockey.